Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission in Gujarat

*238. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present status of Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission in Gujarat with details of rural habitants covered and these being covered; and

(b) how far this has solved the problem of drinking water in the State?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): (a) and (b) Drinking water supply being a State subject, schemes for providing drinking water facilities to rural habitations are implemented by the States. The Government of India through Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission, supplements the efforts of the States by providing financial assistance under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Drinking Water supply component of the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY). The State Governments have the powers to plan, sanction and implement in dividual rural drinking water supply projects. As a result of the consistent efforts made by the Government over a period of time, as on 16.11.2001 , out of the 30,269 rural habitations in Gujarat, 28,018 habitations are fully covered, 2096 are partially covered, leaving only 155 habitations as not covered. During this financial year (2001-2002), Government of Gujarat propose to cover 100 Not Covered and 400 Partially Covered habitations.

Recalling BSF Commandos from Veerappan Operation

*239. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) under what circumstances Government of India had to recall BSF commandos from Veerappan operation; and

(b) what is Union Government's role in the supervision of the ongoing operation to nab Verappan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) BSF was withdrawn in September, 2001 due to pressing commitments elsewhere.

(b) "Public Order* and "Police' are State subjects and therefore maintenance of law and order is the primary responsibility of the State Government. In the case of operations against Veerappan, State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka formulated a joint strategy for nabbing the criminal and reactivated

the Special Task Force (STF) operations. Both the State Government had requested the Central Government tor providing assistance to supplement and improve their resources in the conduct of operations against Veerappan and his gang. As per their request the Central Government provided necessary assistance by way of deployment of BSF supply of weaponry and equipment, etc.

Amendment of Article 371

*240. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Karnataka Government has sought amendment of the Constitution to bring the State under Article 371 to expedite the development works in seven backward districts of North Karnataka;

(b) which are the States already notified under Article 371; and

(c) will be Government take steps to bring Karnataka under Article 371?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) A proposal has been received from the State Government of Karnataka to amend the Constitution to provide for special provisions in respect of Karnataka under Article 371 of the Constitution. The State Government have been asked for certain clarifications on their proposal.

The States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Andhra Pradesh, Sikkim, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Goa are covered under the Provisions of Article 371 of the Constitution.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Budgetary Support for the Development of North-Eastern States

1665. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has chalked out its own Action Plan for the progress of North-Eastern Region and removal of industrial backwardness there, keeping in view the directive issued by the Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission to all the Ministries including Ministry of Coal and Mines for spending 10 per cent of gross budgetary support for development of North- Eastern States; and